

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for a sender of communications to comply with a predetermined time limit, said sender having a communication to be sent to a recipient, comprising:

receiving an incoming communication from ~~a~~ the recipient of communications, said received incoming communication including at least one of the following types: an electronic mail (e-mail) message, a post mail, an instant messaging message, a chat message, and a website access;

identifying a location of the recipient based on the received incoming communication;
~~storing data indicating a last time that the incoming communication is received by the sender based on the received incoming communication;~~

determining if a last time of a prior communication from the recipient is stored in a data store;

if it is determined that the last time of the prior communication from the client is not stored in the data store, determining if the recipient is on a do-not-spam list according to anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient;

if the recipient is on the do-not-spam list, terminating sending of the communication to the recipient or sending a separate communication via a compliant channel according to the do-not-spam list;

if it is determined that the last time of the prior communication from the recipient is stored in the data store, which indicates a pre-existing relationship exception to the do-not-spam list may apply, textually analyzing the communication to be sent and determining whether the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication does not comply with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient, terminating sending of the communication to the recipient or sending the communication via a compliant channel according to the do-not-spam list;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient or if the recipient is not on the do-not-spam list and the last time of the prior communication from the client is not stored in the data store:

storing data representing a present time and the identified location corresponding the received incoming communication;

sending ~~a~~ the communication to the recipient if the stored data indicates that the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received by the sender and ~~a~~ the present time does not exceed a predetermined time limit, said predetermined time limit being defined and prescribed by the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient for establishing ~~a~~ the preexisting relationship between the recipient and the sender; and

sending information to the recipient in response to the sent communication, said information indicating ~~at least one of~~ the following: the stored data indicating the last time that the incoming communication from the recipient is received, the type of the incoming communication from the recipient, and information enabling the user to confirm the preexisting business relationship between the recipient and the sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations ~~whether if~~ the time between the last time of the incoming communication and the present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit ~~such that the recipient can confirm the preexisting business relationship between recipient and sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations.~~

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the incoming communication is received via one or more of the following: a direct communication, a postal mail, a data communication network, or a telephonic communication network.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said sending comprises sending the communication to the recipient if the stored data indicates that the present time is within a range

prior to expiration of the predetermined time limit, said communication for inducing said recipient to send another incoming communication to the sender.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein if the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received and the present time exceeds the predetermined time limit, the communication is sent to the recipient via a channel permitted by a rule, law, or regulation that prescribes the predetermined time limit.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing a list of recipients whose last time of incoming communications to the sender cannot be identified; and

wherein said sending the communication comprises sending the communication to the recipient if the recipient is included in said list of recipients, said communication for inducing the recipient to send another incoming communication to the sender.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising removing the recipient from said list of recipients after the recipient has sent another incoming communication to the sender.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing a list of recipients who are included in a do-not-send list;

identifying if the recipient is included in said list of recipients; and

wherein said sending the communication comprises sending the communication to the recipient via a permitted channel if the recipient is included in said list of recipients.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said sending further comprises sending the communication to the recipient via any channel if the recipient is included in said list of recipients and the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received and the present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the sender is a group, wherein said incoming communication from the recipient is received by one of the group, wherein said storing

comprises storing data indicating the last time that the incoming communication is received by said one of the group, and wherein said sending comprises sending the communication from said one of the group to the recipient if the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received by said one of the group and the present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for a sender of communications to comply with a rule, law, or regulation, said sender having a communication to be sent to a recipient, comprising:

receiving an incoming communication from ~~a~~ the recipient of communications, said received incoming communication including at least one of the following types: an electronic mail (e-mail) message, a post mail, an instant messaging message, a chat message, and a website access;

identifying a location of the recipient based on the received incoming communication;

~~storing data indicating the identified location of the recipient;~~

determining if a last time of an earlier communication from the recipient is stored in a data store;

if it is determined that the last time is not stored in the data store, determining if the recipient is on a do-not-spam list according to anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient;

if the recipient is on the do-not-spam list, terminating sending of the communication to the recipient or sending a separate communication via a compliant channel according to the do-not-spam list;

if it is determined that the last time of the prior communication from the recipient is stored in the data store, which indicates a pre-existing relationship exception to the do-not-spam list may apply, textually analyzing the communication to be sent and determining whether the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication does not comply with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient, terminating

sending of the communication to the recipient or sending the communication via a compliant channel according to the do-not-spam list;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient or if the recipient is not on the do-not-spam list and the last time of the prior communication from the client is not stored in the data store;

storing data indicating a present time and the identified location corresponding the received incoming communication;

determining if a the communication complies with a rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient, said communication indicating if the stored data indicates that the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received by the sender and a present time does not exceed a predetermined time limit, said predetermined time limit being defined and prescribed by anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient for establishing a the preexisting relationship between the recipient and the sender;

sending information to the recipient, said information indicating ~~at least one of the~~ following: the stored data indicating the last time that the incoming communication from the recipient is received, the type of the incoming communication from the recipient, and information enabling the recipient to confirm the preexisting business relationship between the recipient and the sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations ~~whether if the~~ time between the last time of the incoming communication and the present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit ~~such that the recipient can confirm the preexisting business relationship between recipient and sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations;~~ and

sending the communication to the recipient ~~if the communication is determined to comply with the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient~~, wherein if multiple locations of the recipient are identified, the location of the recipient is the location having the most restrictive rule law, or regulation among the identified multiple locations.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said determining if the communication complies with the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient comprises

determining if the communication complies with the rule, law, or regulation via textual analysis of the communication.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said determining if the communication complies with the rule, law, or regulation is performed in an electronic mail client.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said sending the communication comprises sending the communication to the recipient via a channel permitted by the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient if the communication is determined not to comply with the rule, law, or regulation.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, further comprising:

receiving an input from the sender, said input indicating whether the communication complies with the rule, law, or regulation; and

wherein said sending the communication comprises sending the communication to the recipient via any channel if the received input indicates that the communication complies with the rule, law, or regulation.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the location of the recipient is identified based on a postal address if the postal address is provided with the incoming communication, wherein the location of the recipient is identified based on an internet protocol address, server location, or domain name of the recipient if the incoming communication is received via a data communication network, and wherein the location of the recipient is identified based on a telephonic address of the recipient if the incoming communication is received via a telephonic communication network.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the location of the recipient is a location having the most restrictive rule, law, or regulation if the location of the recipient cannot be identified.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said sending the communication to the recipient comprises:

effecting compliance of the communication with the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient if the communication is determined not to comply with the rule, law, or regulation; and
sending the compliant communication to the recipient.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20, wherein said effecting compliance of the communication comprises including one or more of the following information in the communication if required by the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient: a labeling that the communication is unsolicited, an address of the sender, a phone number of the sender, or unsubscription information.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 12, further comprising using a first computer having a first internet protocol address or domain to send the communication to the recipient if the communication is determined to comply with the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient and using a second computer having a second internet protocol address or domain different from the first internet protocol address or domain to send the communication to the recipient if the communication is determined not to comply with the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A system for a sender of communications to comply with a predetermined time limit, said sender having a communication to be sent to a recipient, comprising:

a memory area adapted to store data indicating a last time that an incoming communication from ~~a~~ the recipient is received by the sender, said stored data of the incoming communication indicating a location of the recipient based on the received incoming communication, said stored incoming communication including at least one of the following

types: an electronic mail (e-mail) message, a post mail, an instant messaging message, a chat message, and a website access; and

a device adapted to perform the following:

based on the stored data indicating the last time in the memory area, which indicates a pre-existing relationship exception to the do-not-spam list may apply, textually analyze the communication to be sent to the recipient;

determine whether the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication does not comply with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient, terminate sending of the communication to the recipient or send the communication via a compliant channel according to the do-not-spam list;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient,

send a the communication to the recipient if the stored data indicates that the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received by the sender and a present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit, said predetermined time limit being defined and prescribed by anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient for establishing a preexisting relationship between the recipient and the sender; and

wherein the device sends information to the recipient in response to the sent communication, said information indicating ~~at least one of~~ the following: the stored data indicating the last time that the incoming communication from the recipient is received, the type of the incoming communication from the recipient, and information enabling the recipient to confirm the preexisting business relationship between the recipient and the sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations ~~whether if~~ the time between the last time of the incoming communication and the present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit ~~such that the recipient can confirm the preexisting business relationship between recipient and sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations.~~

Claim 25 (original): The system of claim 24, wherein said device is a telephonic device, a server, or a client.

Claim 26 (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the device is adapted to send the communication to the recipient if the stored data indicates that the present time is within a range prior to expiration of the predetermined time limit, said communication for inducing said recipient to send another incoming communication to the sender.

Claim 27 (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the memory area is adapted to store a list of recipients whose last time of incoming communications to the sender cannot be identified, wherein the device is adapted to send the communication to the recipient if the recipient is included in said list of recipients, said communication for inducing the recipient to send another incoming communication to the sender, and further comprising computer-executable instructions to remove the recipient from said list of recipients after the recipient has sent another incoming communication to the sender.

Claim 28 (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the sender is a group, wherein the memory area is adapted to store data indicating the last time that the incoming communication from the recipient is received by one of the group, and wherein the device is adapted to send the communication from said one of the group to the recipient if the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received by said one of the group and the present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A system for a sender of communications to comply with a rule, law, or regulation, said sender having a communication to be sent to a recipient, comprising:

computer-executable instructions to identify a location of a recipient based on an incoming communication received from the recipient, said received incoming communication including at least one of the following types: an electronic mail (e-mail) message, a post mail, an instant messaging message, a chat message, and a website access;

a memory area adapted to store data indicating the identified location of the recipient;
computer-executable instructions to determine if a last time of a prior communication from the recipient is stored in the memory area;

if it is determined that the last time is not stored in the memory area, computer-executable instructions to determine if the recipient is on a do-not-spam list according to anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient;

if the recipient is on the do-not-spam list, computer-executable instructions to terminate sending of the communication to the recipient or computer-executable instructions to send a separate communication via a compliant channel according to the do-not-spam list;

if it is determined that the last time of the prior communication from the recipient is stored in the memory area, which indicates a pre-existing relationship exception to the do-not-spam list may apply, computer-executable instructions to textually analyze the communication to be sent and computer-executable instructions to determine whether the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication does not comply with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient, computer-executable instructions to terminate sending of the communication to the recipient or computer-executable instructions to send the communication via a compliant channel according to the do-not-spam list;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient or if the recipient is not on the do-not-spam list and the last time of the prior communication from the client is not stored in the memory area:

computer-executable instructions to store data indicating a present time and the identified location corresponding the received incoming communication;

computer-executable instructions to send determine if a communication to the recipient ~~complies with a rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient~~, said communication indicating if the stored data indicates that the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received by the sender and a present time does not exceed a predetermined time limit, said predetermined time limit being defined and prescribed by anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient for establishing a preexisting relationship between the recipient and the sender; and

a first device adapted to send information to the recipient in response to the sent communication, said information indicating ~~at least one of~~ the following: the stored data

indicating the last time that the incoming communication from the recipient is received, the type of the incoming communication from the recipient, and information enabling the recipient to confirm the preexisting business relationship between the recipient and the sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations ~~whether~~ if the time between the last time of the incoming communication and the present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit ~~such that the recipient can confirm the preexisting business relationship between recipient and sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations.~~

Claim 30 (original): The system of claim 29, wherein said computer-executable instructions to determine if the communication complies with the rule, law, or regulation comprises electronic mail client instructions.

Claim 31 (original): The system of claim 29, wherein the location of the recipient is identified based on a postal address if the postal address is provided with the incoming communication, wherein the location of the recipient is identified based on an internet protocol address, server location, or domain name of the recipient if the incoming communication is received via a data communication network, and wherein the location of the recipient is identified based on a telephonic address of the recipient if the incoming communication is received via a telephonic communication network.

Claim 32 (original): The system of claim 29, wherein the first device is adapted to send the communication to the recipient via a channel permitted by the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient if the communication is determined not to comply with the rule, law, or regulation.

Claim 33 (original): The system of claim 32, further comprising:

computer-executable instructions to receive an input from the sender, said input indicating whether the communication complies with the rule, law, or regulation; and

wherein the first device is adapted to send the communication to the recipient via any channel if the received input indicates that the communication complies with the rule, law, or regulation.

Claim 34 (original): The system of claim 29, further comprising computer-executable instructions to effect compliance of the communication with the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient if the communication is determined not to comply with the rule, law, or regulation, and wherein the first device is adapted to send the compliant communication to the recipient.

Claim 35 (original): The system of claim 29, further comprising:

a second device having a second internet protocol address or domain and adapted to send the communication to the recipient if the communication is determined not to comply with the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient; and

wherein the first device has a first internet protocol address or domain different from the second internet protocol address or domain and is adapted to send the communication to the recipient if the communication is determined to comply with the rule, law, or regulation of the identified location of the recipient.

Claim 36 (currently amended): One or more computer storage media having computer-executable components for a sender of communications to comply with a predetermined time limit, said sender having a communication to be sent to a recipient, said computer readable storage media comprising:

a receiving component for receiving an incoming communication from a recipient of communications, said received incoming communication including at least one of the following types: an electronic mail (e-mail) message, a post mail, an instant messaging message, a chat message, and a website access;

a storage component for storing data indicating a last time that the incoming communication is received by the sender, said stored data of the incoming communication indicating a location of the recipient based on the received incoming communication; and

wherein the storage component performs the following:

determine if a last time of an earlier communication from the recipient is stored in storage component;

if it is determined that the last time is not stored in the storage component, determine if the recipient is on a do-not-spam list according to anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient;

if the recipient is on the do-not-spam list, terminate sending of the communication to the recipient or send a separate communication via a compliant channel according to the do-not-spam list;

if it is determined that the last time of the prior communication from the recipient is stored in the storage component, which indicates a pre-existing relationship exception to the do-not-spam list may apply, textually analyze the communication to be sent and determine whether the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication does not comply with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient, terminate sending of the communication to the recipient or send the communication via a compliant channel according to the do-not-spam list;

if it is determined that the analyzed communication complies with the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient or if the recipient is not on the do-not-spam list and the last time of the prior communication from the client is not stored in the storage component:

store data indicating a present time and the identified location corresponding the received incoming communication;

a sending component for sending a communication to the recipient if the stored data indicates that the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received by the sender and a present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit, said predetermined time limit being defined and prescribed by anti-spam rules, laws and regulations of the identified location of the recipient for establishing a preexisting relationship between the recipient and the sender; and

wherein the sending component sends information to the recipient in response to the sent communication, said information indicating ~~at least one of~~ the following: the stored data indicating the last time that the incoming communication from the recipient is received, the type of the incoming communication from the recipient, and information enabling the recipient to

confirm the preexisting business relationship between the recipient and the sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations ~~whether if~~ if the time between the last time of the incoming communication and the present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit ~~such that the recipient can confirm the preexisting business relationship between recipient and sender defined under the anti-spam rules, laws and regulations.~~

Claim 37 (previously presented): The computer storage media of claim 36, wherein the sending component sends the communication to the recipient if the stored data indicates that the present time is within a range prior to expiration of the predetermined time limit, said communication for inducing said recipient to send another incoming communication to the sender.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The computer storage media of claim 36, wherein the storage component stores a list of recipients whose last time of incoming communications to the sender cannot be identified, and wherein the sending component sends the communication to the recipient if the recipient is included in said list of recipients, said communication for inducing the recipient to send another incoming communication to the sender.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The computer storage media of claim 36, wherein the storage component stores a list of recipients who are included in a do-not-send list, and wherein the sending component sends the communication to the recipient via a permitted channel if the recipient is included in said list of recipients.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The computer storage media of claim 36, wherein the sender is a group, wherein said incoming communication from the recipient is received by one of the group, wherein the storage component stores data indicating the last time that the incoming communication is received by said one of the group, and wherein the sending component sends the communication from said one of the group to the recipient if the time between the last time that the incoming communication is received by said one of the group and the present time does not exceed the predetermined time limit.